

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

NEWS



LETTER

A Research Center for Turf and Field Sports,
their History and Social Significance

Middleburg, Virginia 22117

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No one can really understand a nation without a knowledge of the way it spends its leisure time. By far the greater part of our leisure is devoted to sport, either as participants or as spectators. Our greatest spectator sport is horse racing which leads all other sports in paid admissions by a wide margin. Racing supports its own periodicals including daily newspapers, while the leisure time magazines with much the largest circulation are those devoted to shooting and fishing which, with foxhunting (and beagling), constitute the trio known as Field Sports.

Turf and Field Sports are the province of the National Sporting Library, reputedly the only public library in the country devoted solely to sport. Located in Middleburg, Virginia, forty miles west of Washington, it is housed in the 1804 brick house known as "Vine Hill" which it shares with the weekly periodical, "The Chronicle of the Horse." Although the comfortable main reading room is open to anyone who wants to look up a pedigree or racing record, the National Sporting Library is, according to its masthead, "A Research Center for Turf and Field Sports, their History and Social Significance." No books are allowed to leave the building, the lower floor being reserved for the Librarian's office, for book stacks and for the underground humidity controlled, fireproof vault with shelves for approximately 6,000 volumes.

Since its founding in 1954, the National Sporting Library has received many gifts of entire collections and of individual volumes, some rare, some working copies, and hopes to receive many more in the future. It has, either in original issues or in microfilm, most of the North American periodicals devoted to Turf and Field Sports published during the past two centuries,

and hopes to complete this collection within the next few years. It is now in the process of indexing these periodicals in accordance with standards adopted by the American Society of Indexers. Already completed are indexes of The New York Sporting Magazine (Mar. 1833-Dec. 1834) and its successor, The United States Sporting Magazine (Nov. 1835-Aug. 1836), and the first five years of available issues of The Spirit of the Times (1831-1835). Nearing completion is the index of the American Turf Register, 1829-1844.

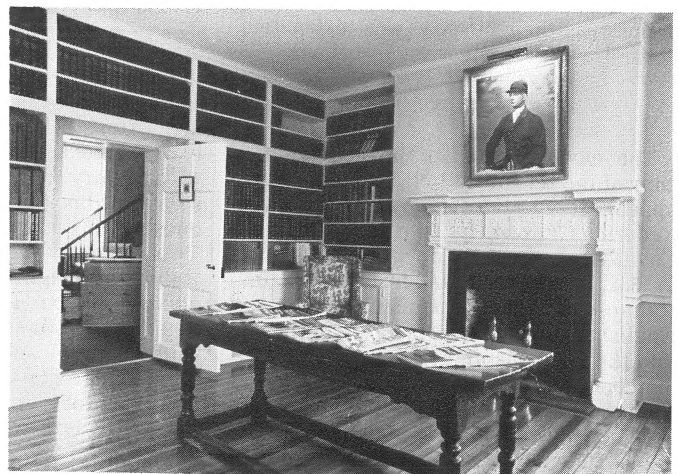
The considerable number of scholars who have already worked in the Library are enthusiastic about the availability of material, the facilities offered, and the opportunities for original contributions to knowledge based on the very wide range of subjects covered by these periodicals - not only the full spectrum of field sports, but also other sports, art, literature, music and allied fields. We look forward to assisting many others in the future and hope that financial assistance, where required, may be made available to scholars undertaking particularly noteworthy projects through Fellowships and through publication.

The National Sporting Library collections, and particularly its microfilming and indexing project of periodicals devoted to Turf and Field Sports, a field hitherto relatively inaccessible to scholars, are becoming increasingly useful, not only for the pursuit of special projects, but also for putting into proper perspective the immense influence played by sport in the evolution of this country.

Alexander Mackay-Smith
Curator



The Library's underground fireproof vault, which has both temperature and humidity control.
(Allen Photo)



The reading room of the National Sporting Library. The portrait is of the late George Ohlstrom, Sr., founder of the Library.
(Allen Photo)

ARUNDEL COLLECTION — A GIFT TO THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

Thomas E. Marston

Through the good offices of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Arundel of Warrenton, Virginia the National Sporting Library of Middleburg, Virginia, has recently received a donation of a notable collection of books on horses from the Arundel Foundation. This collection was originally formed by Frederick Henry Huth, the author of "A Bibliographical Record of Hippology" published in London by Bernard Quantock in 1887. After Mr. Huth's death, the collection was acquired by the Earl of Lonsdale who made a few additions to it. Mr. Arundel acquired it from the Estate of Lord Lonsdale.

The collection consists of 225 items in about 300 volumes, ranging in date from 1553 to 1908, although most of the collection dates from before 1875. Linguistically it comprises books not only in English, but also in Italian, French, German and Spanish. Almost every important text in horse literature is present in some edition, not necessarily the first. It forms a framework to which more specialized collections of horse literature can be attached, a framework which will effectively show the relationship of one specialized collection to another. By specialized collections is meant collections on such subjects as breeding, dressage, coaching, polo, etc.

Horse books were at first all inclusive "how to do it" books, touching on riding, care of the animals, elementary veterinary medicine (although the term was unknown until the late 18th century), possibly a little on breeding, and quite a lot on the traditional old wives' tales about the horse which had grown up over the centuries.

Because these were practical books, they required visual as well as verbal description. As a result most of them are filled with illustrations, usually in the form of woodcuts. They are clearly defined, as their purpose was instructional, and are very pleasant to behold.

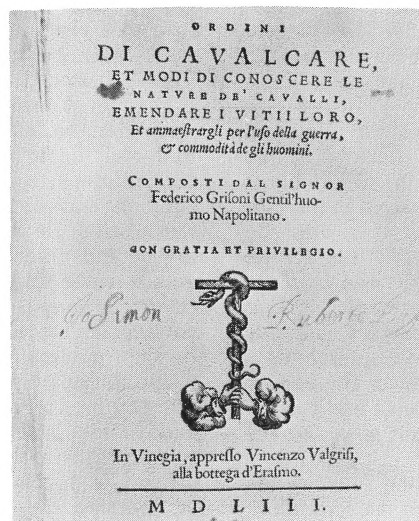
Italy

The earliest book in the collection, a copy of the second edition, had a universal appeal. It was written by a Neapolitan, Federico Grisone. Its title was "Ordini di Cavalcare" and first appeared in Naples in 1552. It was translated from the original Italian into French, Spanish, German and English and remained in print until well into the seventeenth century. The collection contains the second edition printed at Venice by Valgrisi in 1553 and also a late edition printed also in Venice in 1590. The text covers almost all aspects of the horse, its care and maintenance.

Italian writers dominate horse literature for the remainder of the sixteenth century, and the Collection contains the important

ones. Pasqual Caracciolo wrote a general work on horses called "La Gloria del Cavallo" present in its first edition printed at Venice in 1566. Claudio Corte in 1573 published a volume called "Il Cavalerizzo" printed in Marseilles, the first work to deal largely with riding. It was followed shortly by Alessandro Massari's "Compendio dell'Heroica Arte di Cavalleria" printed at Venice in 1590, and Ottaviano Siliceo's "Scuola di Cavalieri" printed at Orvieto in 1590. Giovanni Antonio Cito published one of the earliest works on what we today call veterinary medicine with the title "Del Conoscere le Infermita al Cavallo," printed in Venice in 1590. All of these are present in first editions in the Collection.

Ludovico Melzo's work, "Regole Mili-



An early edition of Grisoni's great book, first published 1552, which began the fashion for manege riding and led to the founding in 1572 of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, still in existence.

tari," printed in Antwerp in 1611 is one of the first works specifically on cavalry. It should be noted that most books on cavalry deal extensively with riding and conversely most books on riding deal somewhat with cavalry. Whether a book can be called a cavalry book or a horse book is really a question of where its main emphasis lies. Two works by Georg Bastam, written in Italian although by his name he would appear to be a German, are bound together: "Il Maestro di Campo Generale" printed in Frankfurt in 1617 and "Il Gouvierno della Cavalleria" printed also in Frankfurt in 1614. Frankfurt and Antwerp were international printing centers.

The Collection contains an unusually complete representation of the important Italian works on horses down through the first half of the nineteenth century.

France

The French have always been noted for their handsome book illustrations and this is very apparent in their horse literature. Most of these works were produced for the French nobility, and often by them or subsidized by them. They are handsome to look at, have always been handsome in price, and are usually quite rare as the excellent plates limited their production to rather small editions. The French were responsible for two important aspects of horse literature. They developed and perfected the style of riding which we call dressage and they were the first nation to establish veterinary schools and put the care of the illness of horses on a professional basis.

The most enduring French work of the seventeenth century was that of Jacques de Solleysel "Le Parfait Mareschal." The Collection has the second edition printed in Paris in 1685, a later edition printed in 1691 and an English translation by William Hope printed at London in 1702. The book remained in print until the end of the eighteenth century, edition following edition.

Another very popular author on riding was Robichon de la Gueriniere whose "Ecole de Cavalerie" first appeared in 1733. It was reprinted for the rest of the century.

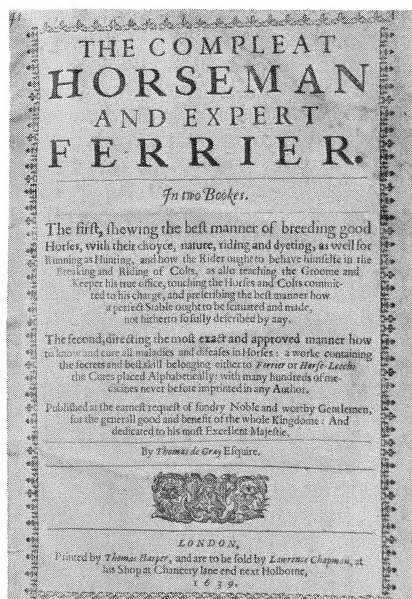
Another French author whose work had a lasting influence was F. A. de Garsault whose work "Le Nouveau Parfait Marechal," first printed in 1734, remained popular for a century. The Huth Collection contains an edition of 1770.

The first book devoted completely to the breeding of horses was written by a French cavalry officer, Comte de Breze, whose "Essai sur les Haras" was first printed at Turin in 1769. A copy is in the collection.

The great French contribution to the care of horses was the establishment of the first veterinary schools. About 1750 a riding master from Lyon, Claude Bourgelat, together with two professional surgeons, Poutaud and Charmeton, began the dissection of animals and experiments on treating their ills. As a result of their experiments Bourgelat published a two volume work, printed at Lyon 1750-53 called "Elemens d'Hippiatrique" which is in the Collection. Through this book and through very successful political agitation Bourgelat succeeded, in 1762, in getting royal patronage to establish a veterinary school at Lyon, followed in 1764 by a second school at Alfort.

One of the earliest, if not the earliest, books written on riding for women was by a Frenchman, L. H. Pons-d'Hostun, who in 1806 published a work entitled "L'Ecuyer des Dames....Equitation."

The French riding master of the last part of the eighteenth century, in an effort to obtain erect posture in the saddle, had gone so far as to teach the rider to lean backwards, a posture uncomfortable for the rider and hard on the horse. In 1843, Francois Baucher, an eminent riding master, published his "Method d'Equita-



One of the great 17th century English books on farriery, and perhaps the first (1639) to speak of mounted foxhunting as an established sport.

tion" which rationalized the whole problem and brought horse and rider back together again. The Huth Collection has Baucher's text in his "Oeuvres Completes," 13th edition, Paris, 1857.

With the establishment of the veterinary schools, there resulted a considerable literature on veterinary medicine in France. Many titles are in the Huth Collection.

Germany

In Germany in the sixteenth century horse books mostly related to horses in the field of art. In the first half of the seventeenth century Germany was the scene of almost all the campaigns of the Thirty Years War. When peace was restored in 1660 it was another fifty years before Central Europe had recovered from its devastation. In the eighteenth century, only one writer of horse literature has international stature. He is Baron J. B. von Sind who wrote several works which appear to be more popular in French translation than in the German original. The Huth collection has one of his main works "Vollstandiger Unterricht in den Wissenschaften eines Stallmeisters" published at Gotha in 1770, the first edition. Later German eighteenth and nineteenth century work is largely focused on the veterinary profession.

England

At last we come to England. Foxhunting began in the sixteenth century if not earlier, as a gathering together of neighbors to get rid of the foxes who were destroying chickens and to get rid of other pests such as badgers. Gradually, a certain formality developed, but the essential problem was to kill the fox; if it took to cover, terriers were used either to kill it or to force it into the open so the hounds could do the killing. As an adjunct

to foxhunting, emphasizing the cross country nature and the sport of a previously serious occupation, the eradication of the fox, informal point to point races began. Laying out an organized course was the next step. However its very name, steeplechasing, betrays its origin. What better description of point to point racing could there be? After all one point was the place where one began, the other was often the steeple of the church over the next hill. Naturally flat racing also developed. By 1700 these forms seem to be fully developed.

These sports were considerably harder on the legs of a horse than the continental interest in formal riding or dressage. As a result English horseshoers discovered that minor leg injuries could be corrected by proper shoeing. In England blacksmiths who shod horses were called farriers. While on the continent horse farms were quite large, in England horse breeding was a minor product of many, many farms. On the continent, the large farms could afford to hire someone with general supervision of the health of the herd, the smaller English farms could not. This job then fell on the local farrier who might visit several or many farms. Before the foundation of veterinary schools, the name farrier became equivalent to veterinary. Many Englishmen known as farriers are prominent in the early history of veterinary medicine.

The earliest English book in the Collection given by Mr. and Mrs. Arundel is a work by Thomas de Gray "The Compleat Horsemán and Expert Farrier," the first edition, printed in London in 1639. This book was an attempt to put into one volume all useful knowledge about the horse and its ailments. Such universality was not followed up, however. The trend was to short useful books, many little more than first aid books, with some discussion of specific ailments, proper diet, corrective shoeing, etc. In spite of numerous editions of each one, they are scarce in any edition. They were worn out with use, often in a stable, or were thrown away when an "improved" book came out. To cite a typical example, one William Gibson published in 1720 "The Farrier's New Guide." This went through eight editions in eleven years. Yet the text is difficult to find in any edition. The Huth Collection has the 7th edition of 1729 and 8th of 1731. This author also published "The True Method of Dieting Horses," "A New Treatise on the Diseases of Horses" in two volumes and a summary of the latter. These texts are in the Collection. Other authors popular at the same time were Capt. William Burdon whose "Gentleman's Pocket Farrier" was later improved by Dr. Henry Bracken and issued with the same title. Other eighteenth century authors on farriery were J. Bartlett whose work "The Gentleman's Farriery" was translated into French and German, John Wood, William Osmer and others.

In the nineteenth century the term veterinary begins to replace farriery in English publications. Delabere Blaine, John Lawrence, J. White and others wrote popular works going through many edit-

ions. One of the most interesting volumes is by Bracy Clark. It contains thirteen of his works on horses, most of them short pamphlets.

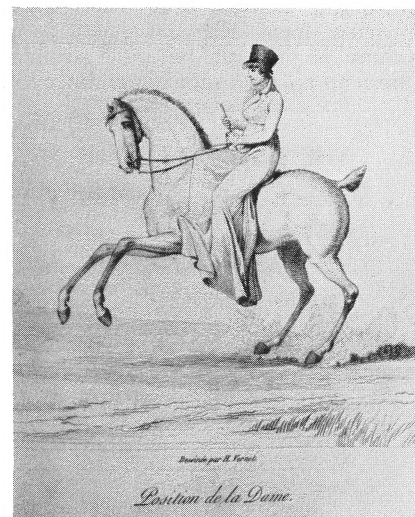
Eighteenth century England also produced a few books on riding. One amusing title is Charles Thompson's "Rules for Bad Horsemén." A volume produced in Edinburgh, one of the earliest books on horses from Scotland, was written by William Ward and is entitled "New Treatise on Method of Breeding, Breaking and Training Horses." It appeared in 1776. Henry, Earl of Pembroke, wrote an important work "Military Equitation." The Collection has the 4th edition of 1793.

In the 1780's British racing was dominated by a horse named Eclipse who was never beaten in a race. A French veterinarian working in England produced a work in both French and English "Essai sur les Proportions de l'Eclipse" London 1790, attempting to prove that the superiority of Eclipse lay in his physique.

Nineteenth century horse literature in England as on the continent, contains so many books that is difficult to pick individual titles. One outstanding book is by William Youatt entitled "The Horse." It seems to have first been printed in 1831 and it remained a standard work throughout the nineteenth century, not only in England, but also in French and German translation.

This brief discussion touches only some high spots of Mr. & Mrs. Arundel's gift, but it does show the breadth of the Collection. It forms a solid core which joins together other holdings of the National Sporting Library into a harmonious collection of major importance among collections of horse literature. To quote a remark made to this author years ago by the late David Wagstaff, himself an ardent collector of sporting books, "It is only through these books that we learn what rural life was like in Europe from the sixteenth century until the present."

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From an early French work on riding for women, L'Ecuyer des Dames, ou Lettres Sur L'Equitation by L. H. Pons-d'Hostun.

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY EXHIBITION

To celebrate its first 20 years, the National Sporting Library of Middleburg, Virginia, a research library devoted primarily to field sports, presented an exhibition on the history of the nearby Upperville Horse Show from June 3rd to 6th.

The show was founded in 1853 by Col. Richard Hunter Dulany of "Welbourne." Col. Dulany had previously journeyed northward where he had purchased a young Morgan stallion of the Black Hawk strain, and the first show featured the offspring of this sire. Col. Dulany also imported from England in 1856 the Cleveland Bay stallion Scrivington, whose colts were also frequently shown. The show was held under the auspices of the Upperville Union Club, and several silver cups awarded during the period 1853-1860 were featured at the exhibition. The

known as the Standardbred. The cup was secured some 25 years ago by Alexander Mackay-Smith, Chairman of the Board of the National Sporting Library, from a Mrs. McKinster of Winchester, Va., together with the information that it had been won by her father-in-law at Upperville. The Southern Planter for August 1857 records that "Class 3 - for 3 year olds" was won by "H. McKinster."

Three other cups of this period of identical shape and inscribed "Upperville Union Club" were also exhibited. Mrs. Charles Mackall of The Plains, Va., lent a cup with the further inscription, "Premium for the best 3-year-old Colt for quick draft, 1859" (quick draft refers to speedy carriage horses). The Southern Planter of August 1859 records that this was won by Caleb Rector with a colt by St. Lawrence. The two matching cups, were lent by Mr.

the height of horses in hands.

Mrs. George Robert ("Kitty") Slater, author of "The Hunt Country," gave to the Library programs printed for the revival of the show which was held for several years following the War. From the period of the second revival, in the 1890s and thereafter, Mrs. Robert N. deHart of Middleburg, lent a cup from the 1910 show presented by the Cobbler Hunt Club, of which Mr. Will McCarty was then Master, for the Best Yearling Heavy Draft. Mrs. Neville Holter of Waterford, Va., lent the 1916 Col. Richard H. Dulany Memorial Cup, which was most appropriately won by the Colonel himself with Din Tayl (Hatchet ex Kate). Archibald Cary Randolph, Jr., of Upperville lent the cup offered in 1920 as a memorial to P. S. Gochner, Secretary and Treasurer of the show from 1891 to 1915, and also the 1926 cup for the winner of the Thoroughbred Yearling Class, Frederick McElhone's Ring On by imported Brumado out of Currer Bell by Semper Ego.

Thanks to the cooperation of Grace



Photographs and trophies of the Upperville Horse Show on exhibition at the National Sporting Library. (Allen Photos)



awards made at the 1857 and 1859 shows were reported in issues of The Southern Planter for these years so that, in some cases, the recipients of the cups could be identified.

Earliest of the cups was a silver tankard made in London in 1792, inscribed "Premium Cup For the best Messenger Colt." Messenger was the grey Thoroughbred imported from England in 1788 who became the principal tail male sire of the American harness race horse, later to be

David Roszel of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Thomas Atkinson of Warrenton, Va., both awarded in 1869, for the best 3-year-old Filly and Colt for quick draft, respectively. Mrs. Atkinson also lent a colored photograph of a portrait of Col. Dulany in his Confederate uniform, while Mrs. Nathaniel Morison of Welbourne lent a photograph of Col. Dulany driving with one hand (he lost an arm in the War Between the States) his coach-and-four, and also his walking stick with a device for measuring

Episcopal Church, The Plains, Va., which generously lent three large display boards, Mrs. L. K. Dole, the Librarian, Mrs. Peggy Leigh and Mrs. Dianna Gregg, Research Assistants, were able to make excellent arrangements of the many Upperville photographs and newspaper clippings secured from other lenders, namely Howard Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baird, Carlyle Cochran, Mrs. Eleanor Langley Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Furness, Miss Anna Hedrick, Mr. and Mrs. William Hulbert, Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., Mrs. Cyrus Manierre, Mrs. A. C. Randolph, Duncan Read, Mrs. Whitney Tippet, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Turner, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Young. Photographs of the cups and display boards accompany this article.

Many of those attending the exhibition were enrolled as "Friends of the National Sporting Library," an organization of individuals interested in field sports and in the collections and works of the Library, particularly the indexing of early American sporting magazines, and the publication of the biannual newsletter. A.M.-S.



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